

Message Text

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FOR LUERS/ARA; CU/ARTS; PASS USIA FOR CHATTEN/EUBANKS/ILA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SCUL GY
SUBJECT: GOG REQUEST FOR U.S. CULTURAL PROGRAMS

REF: GEORGETOWN 0435

SUMMARY: GOG MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND CULTURE SHIRLEY FIELD-RIDLEY, DURING DISCUSSION OF US-GOG RELATIONS WITH CHARGE FEBRUARY 25 (REFTEL), URGED THAT USG EXPLORE ALL POSSIBILITIES FOR BRINGING TO GUYANA US CULTURAL ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMS WHICH WOULD APPEAL TO A BROAD-BASED SEGMENT OF THE GUYANESE PUBLIC. GUYANESE AMBASSADOR MANN MADE A SIMILAR SUGGESTION TO DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEURS IN JANUARY. FIELD-RIDLEY JUDGED THAT SUCH PROGRAMS WOULD, AS PART OF A GENERAL EFFORT, MAKE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO IMPROVING THE US IMAGE IN GUYANA AND THEREBY HELP CREATE A POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT SUPPORTIVE OF MORE FRIENDLY GUYANESE-US RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. THE MINISTER URGED ALSO THAT THE US BEGIN SENDING GROUPS WITHIN THE NEXT TWO-THREE MONTHS. THE PROGRAMS WOULD BE HIGHLIGHTED AND ENJOY ENHANCED PRESTIGE AND STATUS THROUGH THEIR PRESENTATION AT THE NEW NATIONAL CULTURAL CENTER. THE MINISTER DID NOT SPECIFY THE KINDS OF PROGRAMS SHE WOULD
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PREFER, BUT FOLLOWED UP OUR CONVERSATION BY SENDING TWO DAYS LATER THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL HISTORY AND ARTS COUNCIL TO THE EMABASSY TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES. THE LATTER APPEARED TO ACCEPT THE FACT THAT DUE TO AMOUNT OF FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR CULTURAL PROGRAMS HERE WE PROBABLY COULD NOT BRING LARGE OR EXPENSIVE GROUPS. UNFORTUNATELY, WE SENSE THAT THE GUYANESE PUBLIC HAS ACQUIRED CHAMPAGNE TASTES BUT RETAINS A BEER

ECONOMY CONCERNING CULTURAL EVENTS.

2. THE POST PAO HAS LISTED THE FOLLOWING GROUPS AS ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE KIND OF PROGRAMS THE GUYANESE PUBLIC WOULD WANT:

- A. DANCE THEATRE OF HARLEM,
- B. COUNT BASIE KANSAS CITY SEVEN,
- C. DIZZY GILLESPIE QUARTET,
- D. THE NEW DAVE BRUBECK QUARTET,
- E. HAROLD MELVIN AND THE BLUE NOTES,
- F. ODETTA,
- G. THE STYLISTICS,
- H. JACKSON FIVE,
- I. TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY STAGE BAND.

3. IF WE ARE TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO THE REQUEST WHICH HAS BEEN MADE, THEN IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO DETERMINE HOW. COMMERCIAL APPEARANCES BY U.S. ARTISTS AND GROUPS, EVEN AT GREATLY REDUCED COSTS, ARE OUT OF THE QUESTION. BECAUSE OF GOG CONTROLS ON FOREIGN EXCHANGE, THERE IS NO LEGITIMATE WAY OF MAKING PAYMENT TO THE ARTISTS OR GROUPS IN HARD CURRENCY. IN SOCIALIST GUYANA, IT IS ASSUMED THAT ANY FOREIGN CULTURAL PRESENTATION WILL BE SUBSIDIZED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE COUNTRY FROM WHICH THE PROGRAM COMES. THERE IS, MOREOVER, AN UPPER LIMIT OF ADMISSION CHARGES FOR PUBLIC EVENTS OF TEN GUYANESE DOLLARS (U.S. \$3.93). THERE IS NO IMPRESSARIO OR BOOKING AGENCY IN THE COUNTRY AND THIS MEANS MAKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR A PARTICULAR EVENT WITH A LOCAL ORGANIZATION OR THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CULTURE AS CO-SPONSOR. A MAJOR COST FACTOR, TRANSPORTATION, MIGHT BE ELIMINATED OR REDUCED SUBSTANTIALLY IF WE COULD PERSUADE GUYANA AIRWAYS TO PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION FOR ANY GROUP COMING TO GUYANA.

4. IN 1975-76, THE FOLLOWING CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS FEATURING U.S. ARTISTS WERE PROGRAMMED:

- A. ALICE ARTZT, CLASSICAL GUITARIST, JULY 1975;
- B. WILLIAM NABORE, CLASSICAL PIANIST, JANUARY 1976;
- C. THOMAS MCINTOSH, PIANIST/CONDUCTOR, GAVE AUDIO-VISUAL PRESENTATION ON HISTORY OF JAZZ, JUNE 1976;
- D. WALTER HAUTZIG, CONCERT PIANIST, OCTOBER 1976.

ALL OF FORENAMED ARTISTS WERE TOURING PRIVATELY. WITH EXCEPTION OF MCINTOSH, THEY WERE PRESENTED OFF USIS PREMISES. AVERAGE AUDIENCE FOR EACH WAS APPROXIMATELY 300 EXCEPT MCINTOSH PROGRAM WHICH WAS WITNESSED BY ABOUT 125 PERSONS. IN EACH INSTANCE, KEY AND INFLUENTIAL GUYANESE FIGURED PROMINENTLY IN EACH AUDIENCE. BY USE OF NATIONAL CULTURAL CENTER, HOWEVER, UP TO 2000 PEOPLE COULD BE ACCOMMODATED.

5. CURRENTLY PLANS ARE UNDERWAY TO PRESENT THE FOLLOWING
CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS IN GEORGETOWN:

- A. ANN SCHIEN, PIANIST, MAY 1977;
- B. ADAM DARIUS, MIME ARTIST, JUNE 1977;
- C. AMHERST COLLEGE GLEE CLUB, JULY 1977;
- D. WALTER HAUTZIG, SEPTEMBER 1977.

THE PRINCIPAL COSTS FOR THESE PROGRAMS, WITH EXCEPTION OF
AMHERST COLLEGE GLEE CLUB, WILL BE PAID FROM USIS
GEORGETOWN'S GOE.

6. WE WOULD WELCOME DEPARTMENT'S ADVICE AND SUGGESTIONS
AS TO HOW WE MIGHT REALISTICALLY OFFER TO THE GUYANESE ONE
OR MORE OF THE CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS (OR PRESENTATIONS
SIMILAR TO THOSE) LISTED IN PARA 2 OF THIS MESSAGE.
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